

BIRDS IN SOUTHAMPTON



SOUTHAMPTON WILDLIFE LINK

**Birds in Southampton is a report by Southampton Wildlife Link,
a body comprised of representatives from the Natural History
and Conservation groups in Southampton.
It was produced with the assistance of Southampton City Council.**

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Front cover: Waxwing, Bevois Valley, 1996

*This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Pat Loxton,
the secretary of Southampton Wildlife Link since its formation.
She was a tireless worker for the Link,
and a passionate conservationist.*

BIRDS IN SOUTHAMPTON

The position of Southampton at the confluence of its two rivers, and the large open spaces and wild areas within its boundary, makes it a prime urban base for the bird watcher.

In addition, the proximity of the New Forest: the internationally important wildlife areas of the Solent and Southampton Water increases the ornithological interest of the area.

The purpose of this booklet is to show the reader where birds may be found in the City area, to touch on other sites adjacent to its boundaries, and to emphasise the need to protect the remaining wildlife habitats in the City.

1. Inland and Urban Areas

The main area of considerable interest is the Common. This is a large area near the City Centre of mixed woodland, open scrub, and two interesting freshwater lakes producing an imposing bird list.

Recent action by the City Council has resulted in the development of a series of Greenways throughout the City. They are principally wooded valleys forming green corridors that run into the centre of the City, enabling wildlife to move in safety.

The Central Parks provide a remarkable open area in the City Centre, some species of birds visit these parks, but the variety is inconsiderable. However, other public open spaces offer a far greater variety.

The Sports Centre and its adjacent wood and heathland; Lordswood both in and without the City boundary; Riverside Park along the Itchen and into the Itchen Country Park are such areas. They support a wide range of woodland birds and wildfowl, with a small but regular migratory passage.

Finally, the vital role of suburban gardens should not be overlooked. Gardens provide a large expanse of habitat throughout the City, relatively free of predators and with a plentiful food supply.

Cemeteries too provide a similar service, allowing birds to nest or roost undisturbed.

2. River and Estuarial Sites

The Itchen, running through the industrial area of the City, still has extensive mud flats, which support wintering waders.

Chessel Bay Local Nature Reserve enables the bird watcher to get close to the flocks. Other Itchen side sites will be discussed later.

Ward

Upstream, above Cobden Bridge, the salinity decreases and the bird life is markedly different.

At the confluence with the Test on the Woolston side is the

Weston Shore. This is a much used recreation area, and birds attempting to roost at high tide are much disturbed. At low tide the exposed mud provides feeding space for a wide variety of birds. The winter months also produce wildfowl, Red breasted Merganser, Goldeneye, the four Grebes and Diver species are regular.

The Test provides fewer opportunities for the birdwatcher being completely industrialised on the Southampton bank. However, from Totton Causeway and Goatee Beach, Eling Great Marsh can be viewed with its nationally important concentrations of winter Wigeon.

Both these river courses are migration routes, and Marsh Harrier and Osprey are among the more regular sightings.

Above the busy Totton Causeway is the Lower Test Reserve administered by the

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Only partially within the City boundary, it offers a wide range of wetland birds, which can be viewed in comfort from 3 hides on the west side of the river.

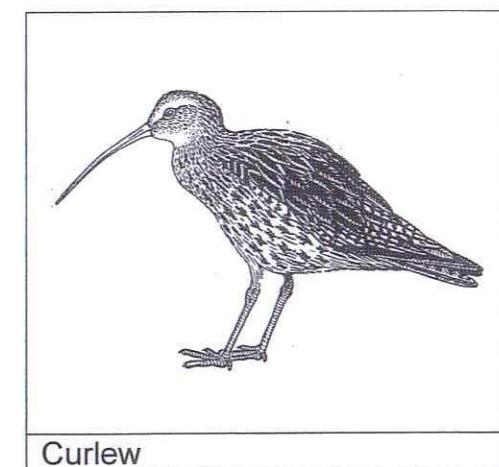
The Sites

This section will deal with some of the more accessible areas, and will give a brief description of the birds one might see there. It is by no means an exhaustive list, many bird watchers have their own patch even in the City Centre.

First the estuary sites. Southampton Water is an important wildlife area, the subject with the Solent, of a proposed Special Protection Area/Ramsar site. For the purpose of this booklet the eastern shoreline from Netley Country Park to Weston Shore is of general interest.

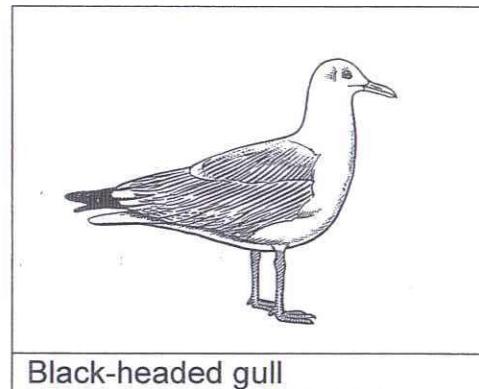
Weston Shore within the City boundary has been the subject of a biological report by the Southampton Wildlife Link, and is now being updated.

It is best viewed from the car park at the northern end of the promenade; this gives views of Weston Hard shingle/mud bank for waders. At the southern end of the promenade a small car park gives views of the mud banks around the freshwater outfall and across to Hythe.



Curlew

Waders in winter are Redshank, Curlew, Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Turnstone. Black tailed Godwit are regular, and more infrequent is the Bar tailed.



Black-headed gull

Brent Geese have a small flock at low tide. More uncommon gulls noted among the larger numbers of Black headed are Herring Gulls and Mediterranean, Common and more rarely the Glaucous Gull.

Red breasted Merganser and Goldeneye with the occasional Common Scoter and Eider are the principal sea ducks. All five Grebes, included the Red-

necked, are regular as are the three Diver species, with Great Northern the most frequent.

Floating Bridge Hard, Itchen Bridge

In Woolston go down to the riverside. In winter small groups of Dunlin and other waders may be seen. This area is notable for a winter resident Mediterranean Gull that can be attracted with Black headed Gulls by scattering bread. Also for periodic visits of a Peregrine onto the roof of the large shed in Vospers yard. Black Redstart has been reported here.

Other points of interest are at Crosshouse Hard on the west bank, and Spitfire Quay at Woolston.

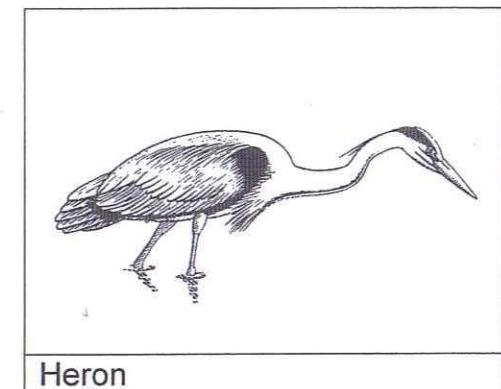
Chessel Bay L.N.R.

This also has been the subject of a detailed report by Southampton Wildlife Link. It is an area of mud

and shingle shore, with a small reed bed, backed by a belt of trees with a rich understorey.

It can be entered by a footpath from Athlestan Road.

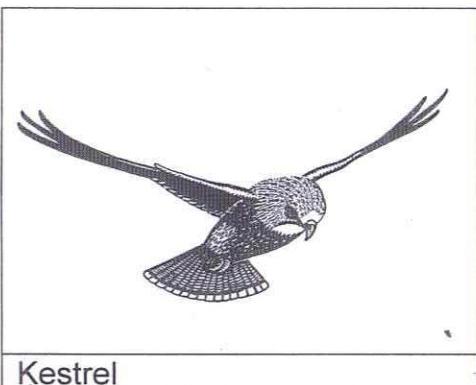
The principal shore birds here are Redshank and Curlew as regulars. Large flocks of Dunlin in winter, with fair numbers of Ringed Plover in autumn. Turnstone are frequent with occasional Common Sandpiper and Grey Plover. Brent Geese are increasing in numbers and can be considered as 'explorers' from the Weston Shore flock.



Heron

Also along the shore Heron, Grey Wagtail and Rock Pipit may be found, and Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler in the rather battered reed bed in summer.

In the wood a selection of woodland and garden birds reside with visits from Kestrel and Sparrowhawk.



Northam Bridge

The easiest (and quietest) place to view the mudflats and the river is from the small Industrial Estate on the Bitterne Manor side. Turn left at the traffic lights after crossing the bridge. The water

can be viewed from several points in the trading estate.

This is the highest point in the river regularly reached by Red breasted Merganser. Red throated and Black throated Divers, and Great crested Grebe have been recorded. A Velvet Scoter has also been seen from the bridge. Dunlin and other waders are present in winter, with the occasional Kingfisher.

This area can also be viewed from Vespasian Road and Bitterne Manor where wintering Common Sandpiper occur.

Cobden Bridge to Woodmill (Riverside Park)

Here the river is embanked, with one small area of marsh on the Bitterne Park side.

Birds found here are primarily Black-headed Gulls, a large loafing flock of up to 600 in mid-winter, Mallard and Mute Swan

also predominate. Some Teal and Godwall also found, with Moorhen in the marshy area.

On the River Test estuary viewing from the City bank is restricted.

Lower Test Reserve (H & I.O.W Wildlife Trust)

A very large area of wet grazing, reed beds and tidal mud. It can be viewed from the old Redbridge below the main A35.

There are 3 hides facing artificial scrapes that can be reached by walking along Salterns Road in Totton, northwards. The path continues via a board walk to the Nursling trading estate and returns to Totton via Test Lane.

A very wide range of birds have been recorded here, Wigeon dominate, with large numbers of Teal, Shelduck and other wildfowl including a resident flock of Canada Geese.

In the scrapes Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, and Little Ringed Plover are regular in spring/autumn. Kingfishers are common in the scrapes, this is the best place in Southampton area for Kingfisher.

The reserve is a Hampshire stronghold for two uncommon birds; Cetti's Warbler, and in winter Water Pipit. It also holds very large numbers of Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler. Icterine Warbler has been recorded on migration.

Migration can produce almost anything, Warblers of many species abound in autumn as do Flycatchers, Chats and waders. Yearly Little Egret, Osprey, Marsh Harrier occur. Spotted Crake, Red backed Shrike and Black Kite are among others recorded.

Lapwing and Redshank breed in small numbers, and Bearded Tit

is thought to have bred.

Access is open, but do not leave the paths or board walks, it can be dangerous.

Eling Great Marsh and Goatee Beach

Eling Marsh can be viewed from the Totton Causeway on the main A35, but be careful the traffic is fast and furious. The Marsh is being rapidly eroded because of recent dredging work for the Port.

Goatee Beach oversees the remainder of the Marsh; access by a track alongside the river from the Eling Mill car park.

The Marsh and the Lower Test reserve form a single ecological unit. Wigeon, Teal, Curlew and Dunlin dominate. In recent years a small flock of Brent Geese has wintered, and there has been a marked increase in Shelduck numbers. The Marsh is a

stronghold in late summer/autumn for the Yellow legged Gulls, and other sub-species of Herring Gull have been reported. Cormorants roost on one of the electricity pylons, unless they are ousted by up to three Peregrines contesting the observation point.

Rarer migrants have been White rumped Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, White winged Black Tern, Glaucous and Mediterranean Gulls. In cold winters, Smew, Goosander, Scaup and Divers have been recorded.

One other site on the Test not to be overlooked in winter is Mayflower Park. Giving views of the river and the opposite bank down to Dibden Bay a number of species such as Red breasted Merganser, Guillemot, Razorbill and Diver species are not uncommon.

The inland sites in Southampton, both large and small can shelter

many species. Even the smallest piece of 'wasteland' will have its wildlife. Backland behind gardens, empty lots between houses will all support some wildlife, and birds such as Blackbird, Blue Tits, Goldfinch and Greenfinch can survive. The largest of the open spaces containing a range of habitat is Southampton Common.

Mainly deciduous woodland which supports a wide range of species, all three Woodpeckers, Treecreeper, Nuthatch and other common species. In spring and summer Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff Garden Warbler, and a few Sedge and Reed Warblers in suitable areas can be found.

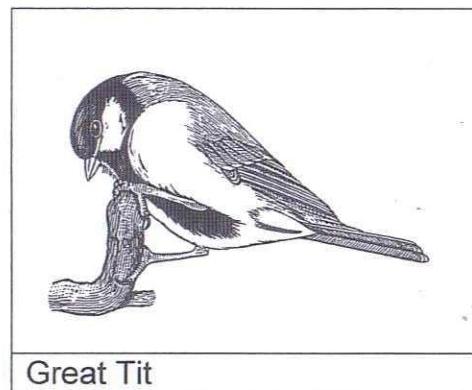
The open gorse areas, particularly around the Ornamental Lake, hold Linnet, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch and some Redpoll.

The coniferous areas in the northern end of the Common

hold Goldcrest, and Coal Tit, and Firecrest has been reported.

The Cemetery Lake has a wildfowl collection, these are joined by wild birds in winter. Tufted Duck, Pochard and Shoveler are common. Moorhen and Coot are numerous. Even a Mediterranean Gull was present one winter.

The Old Cemetery nearby is a particularly good place for good views of Woodpeckers, Nuthatch and the different members of the Tit family, Coal Tit and Marsh Tit being the more scarce.



Information about birds on the Common can be obtained from the Hawthorns Wildlife Centre in the south-east corner of the Common, off Cemetery Road.

The Greenways, recently established and maintained as wild walks by the City Council are of interest for woodland birds.

There are seven of them in every part of the City. Details of their position and access to them are published by the Council in a series of leaflets. They can be obtained from Libraries, or the Environment Centre in Castle Street.

The Lordsdale/Lordswood Greenway runs from Dale Road to Shirley Pond, and up the Tanner's Brook Valley into the part of Lordswood within the City boundary. Here 56 species have been recorded; the three Woodpeckers, Garden, Wood, and Willow Warblers, Redstart and for two winters running a

Dipper in Tanner's Brook behind Sandpiper Road.

The other Greenways can produce similar lists, being more or less of similar habitat. They are all worthy of close attention, and reports of findings would be of great interest.

Where open spaces near Greenways are present they too can be interesting. Allotments, like Muddy Bottom and Tanner's Brook. In cold spells flocks of Redwing, Fieldfare, and once 20 Skylark were noted feeding among the crops.

Other sites of particular interest within or across the City boundary are Westwood, the Sports Centre and adjoining woodland, and the long Greenway from Weston Point, Jurd's Lake, Mayfield Park to Weston Common.

Even the Central Parks, for all the heavy human traffic in them,

can be of interest: try the quieter areas in East Park from the Titanic Memorial. Look from the park to the Civic Centre clock tower you might see the semi-resident Peregrines there.

The public open space Woodmill to Mansbridge and into Mansbridge Reservoir can be good for waterside birds, Grey Wagtail, Reed Bunting and 'wet warblers' abound. On the river Smew has been recorded, and a juvenile Night Heron in the willows on the bank.

Peartree Green, principally known for its botanical interest is another area to watch.

Even the recreation grounds, such as the Veracity Ground, Millbrook School playing field, and the Civil Service sports ground in Shirley hold roosting flocks of gulls, including Herring and the less numerous Common Gull in winter.

School playgrounds are unlikely habitats, but many will remember the 38 Waxwings feeding on berries at Bevois Town Primary School. Redwing and Fieldfare will come into any small open space in hard winters.

Gardens

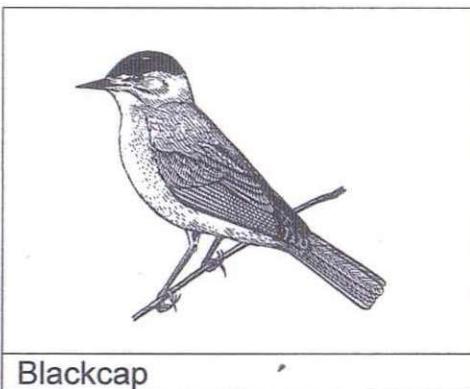
Most open space in the City is in private gardens. The trees and shrubs in gardens provide cover and corridors for wildlife to move freely. The popularity of feeding birds in winter is an obvious attraction for Sparrows, Blackbirds and the Tit family. Gardens now provide a stronghold for the rapidly declining Song Thrush.

Naturally the more open suburban gardens with access to open country, can produce the greater number of species.

A garden in Rownhams within the City was regularly visited by up to 36 Brambling in the winter of

1998. Also Blackcap, Siskin, Goldcrest, the three Woodpeckers were regular. A Pied Flycatcher has been recorded.

A garden in Bitterne has a count of 42 species including Buzzard, Rose ringed Parakeet, and Woodcock! In inner City Freemantle, over a period of 25 years, 61 species have been recorded from one garden, including Black Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and Firecrest.



Blackcap

In this area and nearby Regents Park birds frequently overfly the urban area, Hobby, Peregrine,

Sparrowhawk and Little Egret among them. Buzzards are seen more frequently over the past decade. Flocks of waders, wildfowl, and Redwing are seen or heard in winter.

Two remarkable records: 3 Ring Ouzels in the rear of French Street, and an American Yellow billed Cuckoo found dead in Woolston.

Around the City

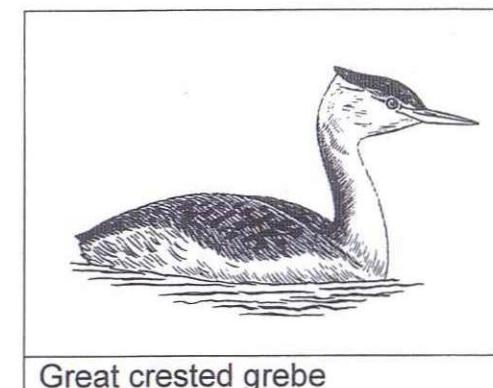
There are very many prime sites for the birdwatcher just over our boundary.

The New Forest is of international importance as a vast wildlife area famed for its populations of Hobby, Dartford Warbler, Hawfinch and Crossbill. Many varieties such as Great grey Shrike, and Red-footed Falcon are frequent.

The upper reaches of the Test up to Nursling are worthy of close scrutiny. Try the walk from B&Q

at the M271 Junction to Nursling Mill on to the new reservoirs, one shortly to be managed by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Perhaps walk the Test Way from Nursling Church to Lee. Woodland birds, warblers and wildfowl abound.

On the eastern side Itchen Country Park has similar habitat, perhaps more accessible. The Royal Victoria Country Park overlooking Southampton Water affords views of Great crested Grebe, Divers, Red-breasted Merganser, even Goosander in winter.



Great crested grebe

Fuller details of sites around Southampton can be found in 'Where to Watch Birds in Dorset, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight' Martin Cade and George Green.

References

Greenway Leaflets:

Southampton City Council

Reports on the Ecology of Important Sites:

Weston Shore)	
Lordswood)	
Chessel Bay L.N.R.)	The Southampton Wildlife Link
The Estuary of the Itchen)	
Peartree Green)	
Major Southampton Ponds)	

Birds of the Solent 1992:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Annual Hampshire Bird Reports:

Hampshire Ornithological Society

SOUTHAMPTON BIRD CHECK LIST

Red throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Winter visitor
Black throated Diver	<i>Gavia artica</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Winter visitor, increasing numbers (?)
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Resident, winter visitor on estuary
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Winter visitor on estuary
Red necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Black necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Rare winter visitor
European Storm Petrol	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	Storm blown vagrant
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Common resident on estuary
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Scarce visitor
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	One only Woodmill
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Increasing visitor
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Common resident and visitor
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Common resident, non-breeding birds in estuary
White fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Uncommon winter visitor

Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Fairly common, some resident
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Winter visitor on fresh water
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Winter visitor on fresh water
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Regular winter visitor
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Vagrant 1 Northam Bridge
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Regular winter visitor
Smew	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Regular winter visitor, in small numbers
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Uncommon winter visitor
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Passage migrant
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Frequent in suburban areas
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen frequently soaring
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common, perhaps declining
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Vagrant
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Scarce on passage
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Regular in winter even in inner city
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Very scarce

Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common on fresh water
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common, increased numbers in winter
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Common resident on estuary
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Vagrant, on migration
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Passage migrant, has bred Lower Test
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Fairly common, Weston Shore
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squaturola</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Infrequent summer, widespread in winter
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Uncommon winter visitor
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Rare, recorded Weston Shore
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Uncommon passage migrant
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Rare, recorded Weston Shore
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Abundant winter visitor
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Scarce in winter
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocryptes minimus</i>	Uncommon, most in Lower Test
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Frequent, but declining
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Vagrant in City area
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Common winter visitor
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Scarce

Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Frequent on passage
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Common resident, and winter visitor
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Scarce on passage
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Very common in winter, has bred
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Scarce on passage
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Passage migrant, has wintered
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Fairly common Weston Shore
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Resident/winter visitor in small numbers
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Scarce/rare in winter
Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>	1 Mayflower Park 1987
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Abundant
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Fairly common in winter
Lesser black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Fairly common, some winter
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Scarce in summer, more in winter. Has bred in city centre
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Very rare
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Common
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Small numbers fishing in summer
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common in summer, and autumn migration

Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Scarce
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Rare on passage
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Vagrant
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Winter visitor in small numbers
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Uncommon winter visitor
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Small numbers in Central Parks
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Abundant
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Increasing resident
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Abundant
Rose ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Seen in Bitterne
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Now rare in urban area
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	1 corpse Woolston
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	?
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Declining in suburban and urban area
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	?
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common summer visitor
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo althis</i>	Moderately common resident
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Vagrant, seen in Western Docks
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Common visitor to gardens
Great spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Visitor to gardens

Lesser spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	Uncommon garden visitor
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Visits allotments in cold weather
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Increasing along rivers
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Along river banks (e.g. Woodmill)
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Probably decreasing
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Summer visitor to open woodland
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Fairly common e.g. Weston Shore
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Uncommon migrant
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Frequent in fresh water streams
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Common, even in urban areas
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Occasional irruptions
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Abundant
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Abundant
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Abundant
Black Restart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Annual in winter in small numbers
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Southampton Docks in 1983
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	On passage
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Rare on passage
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Abundant

Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilarus</i>	Scarce in colder winters
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Common in suburban areas
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Fairly common in cold winters
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Common
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Summer visitor to reedbeds
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Summer visitor small numbers
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Summer visitor to scrubby areas
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common summer visitor to scrubby areas
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Scarce summer visitor to woods
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Summer visitor, and to bird tables in winter
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Scarce summer visitor
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common summer visitor, some winter
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common summer visitor
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	More frequent in winter
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A declining visitor
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa hypoleuca</i>	Has occurred on migration
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	A fairly common resident
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Mainly in winter with other Tits
Coal Tit	<i>Parus atEr</i> kater	As above

Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Abundant resident
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Abundant resident
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Will visit bird tables in suburbs
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Infrequent visitor to bird tables
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Increasing in numbers
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Abundant
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Fairly frequent
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Common in open areas (allotments)
Carriion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Common
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Abundant
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Abundant, thought to be declining
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Scarce, rapidly declining
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Uncommon, with Chaffinch in winter
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Very common
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Winter visitor to bird tables
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Fairly common
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Scarce
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Fairly common in suitable habitat

Also Southampton has had frequent ship borne vagrants from America. The most recent being a Grey Catbird off the QEII.

Others have been Northern Parula, Blackpoll Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, all on liners from U.S.A.

This list does not include birds frequenting Lower Test Nature Reserve, or comprehensively Southampton Common. The river estuaries and birds seen from Weston Shore are included.

Nov

References:

The Birds of Hampshire HOS 1993

The Hampshire Bird Reports HOS Annually

Members of Southampton and District Bird Club

Personal lists from fellow ornithologists, to whom many thanks